

# FURTHER STUDIES IN HEREDITARY ABILITY.

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*In the accompanying charts, all persons, the dates of whose births and deaths are given, appear in the Dictionary of National Biography, or in the case of Americans, in Appleton's Encyclopaedia of American Biography. Some so marked are still living or have deceased since the last publication of these works, but these will undoubtedly find a place in future issues.*

In a previous article in this REVIEW (April, 1924), the present writer set out a number of family connections based chiefly on men eminent in public life. In this article it is proposed to consider connections based on men eminent in other avocations. Public affairs, science, literature and art may be reckoned the principal categories of human endeavour in which distinction has been attained. Success in commerce alone has never, in the opinion at any rate of posterity, been considered as of equal value, though it is not uninteresting to note in what types of families such success has been most often achieved.

From a considerable number of charts compiled by the writer, the conclusion has been reached that public men have sprung from notable connections to a much greater extent than others. This was to be expected, as until recent times at all events, the great governing families in this country have had many extrinsic advantages not strictly connected with heredity. In the case, however, of science, literature and art there would not on the other hand appear to be much difference in the assistance of extrinsic advantage. Nevertheless there can be no doubt that writers on the whole have had more eminent relatives than scientists; scientists than artists. The reasons for this difference are rather obscure, possibly greater heredity of the faculty for culture is requisite for literary ability.

In any case, however, it will be seen very clearly from the accompanying charts, which are typical of many others, that variety of ability, rather than specialised ability, is the distinguishing characteristic of good stocks. In those cases where some particular form of ability has been carried on, this is probably often due to family influence of the indirect kind and the individuals in the later generations might often under other circumstances have distinguished themselves in other fields.

In this, as in the previous article, mention has been avoided of the connections already detailed by Sir Francis Galton in his "Hereditary Genius," this excludes such well known families as the Darwins, Wedgwoods, Wesleys, Sheridans, Gregorys, Taylors of Ongar, Taylors of Norwich, Macaulays, Stephens, Kembles.

As also in the previous article, connections which show distinction in the male line only are omitted, the intention being to bring together relationships not so apparent on the surface.

Of the ten charts accompanying this article, which have been carefully selected out of over one hundred, four deal with English connections, three with Scotch, two with American and one with Irish. These are numbered 13—22, the numbering being carried on from the previous article, where the first 12 charts were shewn.

As will be seen, there are some striking resemblances between Charts 13 and 14, again between 17 and 18, and again between 20, 21 and 22.

Chart 13. The first of three Scotch connections deals with the relatives of Sir Walter Scott on his mother's side. His maternal grandfather, John Rutherford, was a prominent physician in Edinburgh, but the connection is really based on John Rutherford's wife, Jean Swinton. The Swintons are one of those Scotch families who shewed during several generations distinct ability, without rising to any great height, the chief individuals of note occurring in their descendants through female lines. From one, Sir Alexander Swinton, early in the 17th century, sprang Alexander, a Scotch judge, and John, who played some part as a politician in the turbulent times of Cromwell and Charles II. He was grandfather of Jean Rutherford, whose maternal ancestry is however more notable. On this side she descended from William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, a man who played a versatile and restless part *temp.* James I., at once a courtier, statesman, poet and coloniser of Nova Scotia. He was an ancestor of Sir Walter in an almost direct female line. On this side too, there is a connection with the Hamiltons, bringing in a relationship between Scott and Anthony Hamilton, author of the Grammont Memoires, and the latter's sister, the Comtesse de Grammont, immortalised in those Memoires. To be exact, Anthony Hamilton was second cousin of Scott's great grandmother. James Boswell, it may be mentioned, also derives from these Hamiltons, though the relationship is still more distant.

More nearly connected with Sir Walter, and like him descended from the Swintons, are an interesting group of artists, George Watson, the first President of the Scottish Academy and his nephew, Sir John Watson-Gordon, at one time the leading portrait painter of Scotland, while George Watson's maternal grandson, James Grant, followed afar off in the footsteps of his great relative, Sir Walter.

The Swinton family has kept distinction to the present day, among others, James, a portrait painter of note and Mr. Alan Swinton, F.R.S., a leading electrical engineer.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Sir Douglas Hogg, derive in the female line from this stock, and it is interesting to note that the latter's son, Mr. Quinton Hogg, named after his grandfather, the founder of the Polytechnic, is at present captain of the school at Eton.

Literature, art, science and public affairs are all represented in the fine Scottish stock, of which the Swinton family forms the central line.

Scott is undoubtedly the greatest of Scottish men of letters, many would rank Robert Louis Stevenson as the second. His connections

are set out in Chart 14. As in the case of Scott, the long line of note occurs on the maternal side, though Stevenson's father and paternal grandfather and uncles were all engineers of distinction, chiefly concerned with the building of lighthouses. His mother was a Balfour of Pilrig and this family are, in some respects, curiously like the Swintons. They can be traced to one James Balfour, who in the reign of James I. married Barbara Melville, a lady with most distinguished relatives. Her uncle, Andrew Melville, was second only to Knox in the Scottish Reformation, while Henry Scrymgeour and the Youngs were among the greatest scholars of their time. Sir Peter Young was James the First's tutor, and whatever else that monarch lacked, he certainly did not lack learning.

It might have seemed at first that distinction was to die out in Barbara Melville's descendants, though the Balfours, first in the Church and then in commerce, were always men of standing. Their marriages were fortunate and by degrees they emerged from comparative obscurity. Through these marriages Stevenson was related to Sir Thomas Hope, an eminent lawyer and founder of a great legal connection to which, among others, Lord Erskine belonged; to Sir William Hamilton, the most noted metaphysician of his time; and to the Elliots of Minto, who produced a really remarkable number of men of note in the direct male line.

Three literary connections may specially be noted: Jean Elliot of the Mintos, authoress of that pathetic poem "The Flowers of the Forest," composed it is said in the course of a drive in answer to a challenge by her brother; Thomas Hamilton, author of a novel "Cyril Thornton" once well known, but now forgotten, and G. J. Whyte-Melville, whose hunting stories are probably still remembered.

Science appears later in the Balfour family. Thomas Balfour as a surgeon and George Balfour as a physician won recognition, while among these varied abilities the name of Leslie Balfour-Melville, a winner of the amateur golf championship and a very brilliant all round athlete, should not be omitted.

The close general resemblance between the Scott and Stevenson connection will not escape observation, and in both cases the varied ability shown has owed little to wealth or to outstanding social position.

A third Scottish connection of interest is based on the historian William Robertson. Chart 15. The founder of the connection was his grandfather William Robertson, a minister of the Church of Scotland, one of whose daughters, Jean, married Alexander Henry. Their son John emigrated to America and was father of the famous Patrick Henry, who took so prominent a part in the American Revolution, being especially distinguished as an orator. Oratorical gifts, perhaps also derived from the Presbyterian minister, descended also to the historian's great nephew, the Lord Chancellor, Brougham. A very different type of ability appeared in another branch, that to which belonged the four brothers Adam, the well known architects, after whom the Adelphi was named. Robert was the leading brother, but the family was carried on by John, and continued for three generations to achieve a certain distinction in various fields,

military, naval, political, civil service. In the female line, too, the descendants of John Adam have been well to the fore:—James Loch as a political economist, Lord Loch as a colonial governor, and the present Lord Carnock, better known as Sir Arthur Nicolson, as a diplomatist.

From the historian directly descended the late Lord Minto, Viceroy of India and his brother Arthur, Editor of the *EDINBURGH REVIEW*, also Mr. Bertrand Russell whose distinction as a mathematician will probably survive his fame as a Socialist.

The four great names of this connection, Robertson, Brougham, Patrick Henry and Robert Adam would alone be sufficient to give it distinction, but as has been seen, varied ability, though of lesser note, has continued for several generations.

From Scotland we turn in Chart 16 to Ireland. Charles Doyle, the founder of this connection was a country gentleman, in himself quite unknown to fame; it is interesting to note that his immediate ancestry was wholly Celtic, his mother was an Egan, and this and Doyle are thoroughly Celtic names. In many directions this strain of Celtic blood made itself manifest. In the male line the Doyles were chiefly famed in arms, from the American Revolution to the Crimean War. Poetical gifts were evident in Sir Francis Doyle, and in that most versatile of men, the first Earl of Lytton, descended from the Doyles in the female line. Lord Lytton of course inherited ability also on the paternal side, but some of his most marked characteristics come clearly from his brilliant, though very eccentric, mother.

Charles Doyle's maternal grandson, Charles Kendal Bushe, was an Irish Chief Justice, and himself grandfather of a very distinguished Archbishop of Dublin, who like Lord Lytton, derived marked ability from both sides. This branch brings in a connection with the Cramptons, a very well known medical family in Dublin.

The living descendants of Charles Doyle shew a considerable diversity of talent. These include:—

Present Lord Lytton (Governor of Bengal).

Mr. Neville Lytton (one time tennis champion).

Sir Bertram Windle, F.R.S. (Anthropologist.)

Miss Edith Somerville (novelist, author of "The Adventures of an Irish R.M.")

Benjamin Plunket, Bishop of Meath.

Sir Conyngham Greene (late Ambassador to Japan).

Mr. Plunket Greene (singer.)

With the Doyles, may in some respects, be compared an English connection, the descendants of John Symonds, a Worcestershire surgeon of the 18th century. Three families are specially prominent, the Symonds themselves, the Hills and the Mackenzies. The Symonds family can shew seven members of the medical profession in the direct male line, but none achieved much note till the elder John Addington Symonds, whose professional attainments were equalled by his literary attainments, which latter he passed on with interest, to his brilliant son. Medicine however is well represented in the Mackenzies by Sir Morell, the famous throat specialist, but his brother, Charles, struck out an entirely new line by going on the stage. This deeply offended

his relatives in whom a Puritan tradition was very strong, and occasioned his adoption of the pseudonym of Henry Compton. Under this name he made a great reputation in refined comedy, he and his son both married into families connected with the stage, and the son and his daughter have continued that calling with distinction. In addition to Sir Morell Mackenzie, science is also represented in this branch by the late Mr. Louis Miall, F.R.S.

The most notable of the Hills was Sir Rowland, the famous organiser of the, alas, defunct penny postage; but all his brothers were men of ability; his niece Miss Rosamond Hill held a high position in the educational, and his nephew, Dr. Birkbeck Hill, in the literary world.

The living descendants of the Worcestershire surgeon shew a diversity of talent as striking as that shewn by the living descendants of the Irish squire. The former include:—

Mrs. Vaughan, miscellaneous writer.

Dame Katharine Furse, head of the V.A.D.'s during the war.

Lord Strachie, ex-Minister.

Mr. St. Leo Strachey, Editor of the "Spectator."

Mr. Compton Mackenzie, novelist.

Miss Fay Compton, actress.

Mr. Matthew Hill, science master at Eton.

Sir Arthur Hill, well-known solicitor.

Dr. Leonard Hill, F.R.S., physiologist.

Sir Maurice Hill, Judge of the High Court.

Sir Leslie Scott, ex-Solicitor-General..

A comparison of the Doyle and Symonds connections shews an equal diversity of talent, and, on the whole, a distinct resemblance in the nature of the diversity. Science, fiction, administration, appear in both, and music in the one case is balanced by the drama in the other. Hereditary ability in scholarship has often been noted; the Kennedys of Shrewsbury and the Butlers of Harrow are perhaps the best known instances, but in both these cases distinction has, on the whole, been confined to the male line. Chart 18 traces a line of descent through several families, shewing a continuation of scholarship, but including also various other activities.

Benjamin Heath, son of a successful merchant in Exeter, was the first of this connection to come to the fore. He made a name as a critic and book-collector, his son Benjamin became headmaster of Harrow, commencing a connection with that school second only to that of the Butlers. Louisa, daughter of the elder Benjamin married Joseph Drury, who succeeded his brother-in-law at Harrow, and brought the school to an unprecedented pitch of prosperity. Two of his sons, Henry and Benjamin became assistant masters at Harrow, both were distinguished classical scholars. A third brother, Heber was a noted botanist. John Merivale, husband of this sister, a leader of the Chancery Bar, was himself a fine scholar. His sons Herman and Charles carried on the tradition. Charles, in early life, distinguished, like Charles Wordsworth (see Chart 20), alike as a scholar and as an athlete, is best known now as the historian of Rome. Herman, who was actually head of the school at Harrow before he was 16, became a singularly able public official. His "Lectures on Colonisation" formed a turning point in the history of relations between the Home

Government and the present Dominions. During his tenure of the Permanent Under-secretaryship for the Colonies a beginning was made of the grant of responsible self-government. His son, Herman Charles, was well known in his day as a dramatist.

The Mallets, the final family in this chart, have worthily continued the distinction of the connection. French on the paternal side, they are descended from Mallet du Pan, the great Royalist journalist during the French Revolution. The elder Sir Louis Mallet, a noted economist, negotiated the famous Cobolen Treaty with France; his sons Sir Bernard and Sir Louis are distinguished public servants. It is interesting to recall that the Mallets have English, French, German and Swiss blood in their veins. The wife of Benjamin Heath was a Swiss of the name of Michelet, possibly related to the historian; the mother of John Merivale was a German. It is perhaps a moot point whether this kind of mixed descent does or does not lead to ability, but there is certainly no doubt in this instance.

Chart 19 shews one of the comparatively rare cases of descent of specialised ability, no fewer than ten artists of more or less note were descended from a Mr. Dawnay, a Vicar of Kew in the 18th Century. It does not appear whether the Vicar himself shewed any artistic talent, but it may be mentioned that one of his daughters married John Dillman, who laid out the original Kew Gardens. From the other daughters sprang the Engleheart and Richmond families. The former, who were of German origin, confined themselves exclusively to miniature painting; of these George was the most eminent. In the Richmond family three successive generations achieved fame in art: Thomas, like his cousins, painted miniatures, George, the greatest of the whole connection, was perhaps the most noted portrait painter of his day, and the succession was completed by the late Sir William Richmond, R.A. Admiral Herbert Richmond, son of Sir William, has adopted a different sphere of activity, even in this connection, though ability remains, the specialised form no longer continues. Nor has it continued in the Engleheart family, though the late Sir Gardiner Engleheart worthily filled various public offices. He died a centenarian, and it is curious, considering how rare is this longevity, that there should, in recent years, have been another instance in a notable family of the attainment of this age, in the person of Mrs. Haldane, whose distinguished connections were set out in the previous article.

Chart 20 deals with the descendants of Robert Barclay of Ury, the famous Apologist of the Quakers. David Barclay, the father of Robert, served as a soldier under Gustavus Adolphus, and though, owing to the adoption of the tenets of Quakerism, few of the connection entered military service, physical strength and athletic prowess have been nearly as notable among Robert Barclay's descendants as mental ability. Robert himself was a man of herculean strength; his great grandson, Robert Barclay-Allardice was famous in his day for his pedestrian feats; Charles and Christopher Wordsworth were in youth as noted for athletics as for scholarship, and several members of the Buxton and Hoare families have distinguished themselves at games.

Of the various families in this connection, the most notable are the Galtons, Gurneys, Buxtons, Hoares, Wakefields and Wordsworths.

The relationship of Sir Francis Galton to the Darwins on his

mother's side is the better known, but he came of first-rate stock on his father's side as well. He and his cousin Sir Douglas, a well-known engineer, represent science on this chart; their aunt Mrs. Schimmelpennick was best known for her literary activities. The Gurneys, above all Samuel, were very successful business men, and almost equally well-known for their philanthropic activities, particularly of course, the famous Mrs. Fry. This tradition has been carried on by the Buxtons and Hoares: a member of each of these families is represented in present day politics, Mr. Noel Buxton follows in the footsteps of his ancestors, Sir Samuel Hoare belongs to the opposite party.

The Wakefields are a remarkably interesting family, who played a leading part in colonial history in the last century. Edward Gibbon Wakefield was the most prominent member, to him more than to any other man we owe the genesis of Dominion self-government, his only rival in this respect being Herman Merivale, who appears on Chart 18. Wakefield did not, in early life at all events, share the almost austere morality of most of this connection, but having suffered imprisonment for the abduction of an heiress, he splendidly retrieved this early lapse.

Three of the Wordsworths, Charles, Christopher and John, became bishops, and Miss Elizabeth Wordsworth, who is still living, was first Principal of the first Womens' College in Oxford. Charles Lloyd, the uncle of the two elder of these Wordsworths, was himself a poet of some note, and was grandfather of William Clark Russell the novelist.

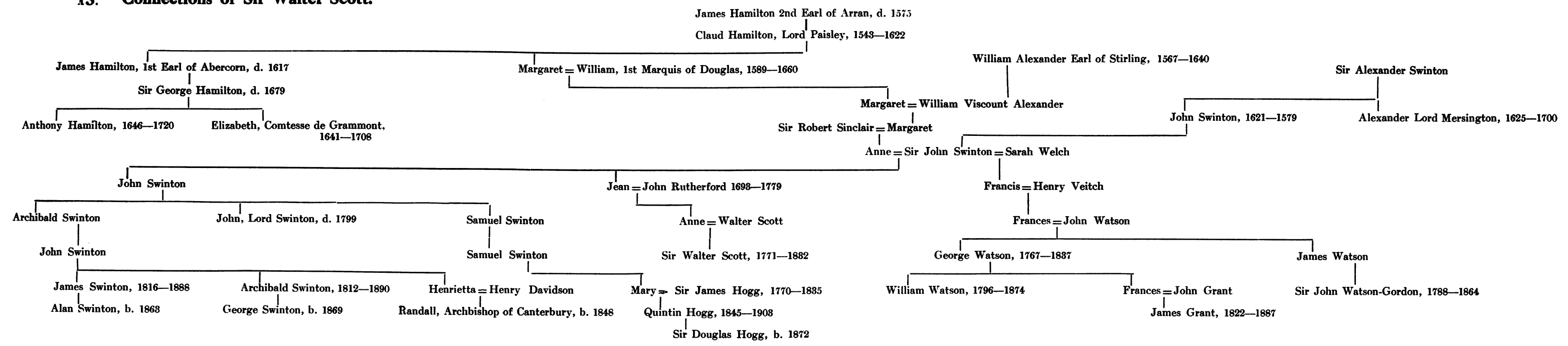
The Barclay connection, as a whole, shews many strong general characteristics, and in particular that combination of religious principles and business acumen so typical of a certain side of English life.

It is interesting to compare this connection with the Villiers connection set out in the previous article. Both shewed ability extending over several generations, but there the resemblance certainly ends.

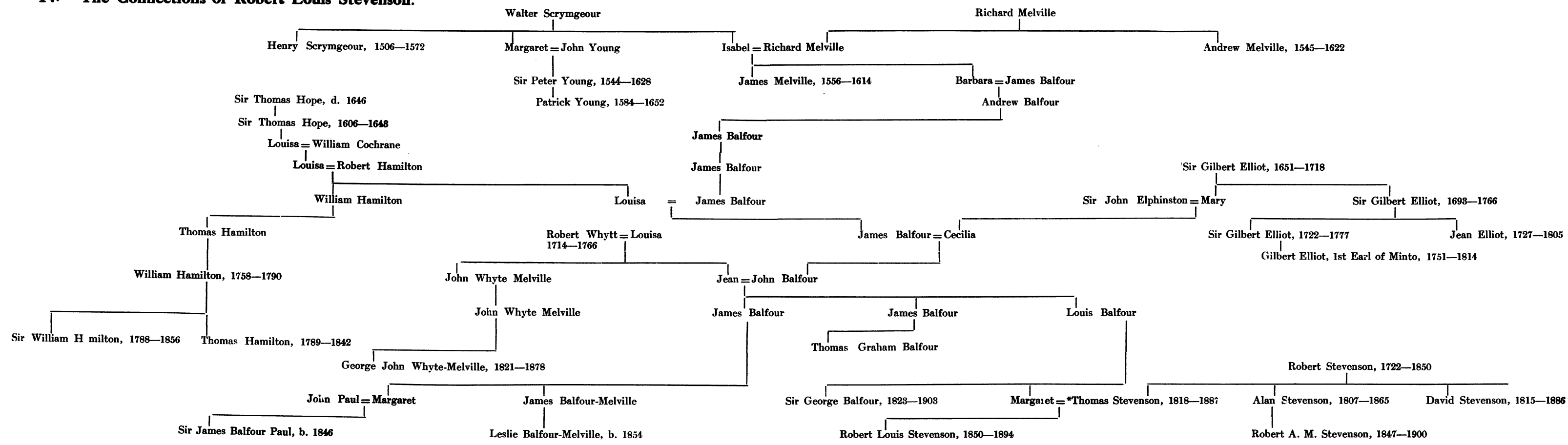
On the other hand a strong general resemblance exists between the descendants of Robert Barclay and the descendants of Philip Henry (not charted). Philip Henry, like Barclay, was a leading Nonconformist in the 17th century. Among his descendants are Samuel Rogers, the poet, the brothers Samuel and Daniel Sharpe eminent respectively in Egyptology and geology, Anna Swanwick, the translator of Goethe and Aeschylus, R. H. Hutton, the essayist, Charles Vaughan, the famous preacher, Sir Bernard Pares, well known as an authority on Slavonic literature, and the Greg and Rathbone families who, like the Gurneys and Buxtons, combined business with philanthropic activities. To this last branch belongs Miss Eleanor Rathbone, the well known sociologist.

Among American connections none present features of greater interest than the descendants of Thomas Dudley, Governor of Massachusetts shortly after the foundation of that colony. Many attempts have been made to connect this Thomas with the great English family of Dudley, but so far no direct proof of relationship has been forthcoming, and the parentage of Thomas' father, Roger, remains quite uncertain. From the eugenic point of view a connection between these American Dudleys and the family of John, Duke of Northumberland, would be of especial interest having regard to the great distinction

13. Connections of Sir Walter Scott.

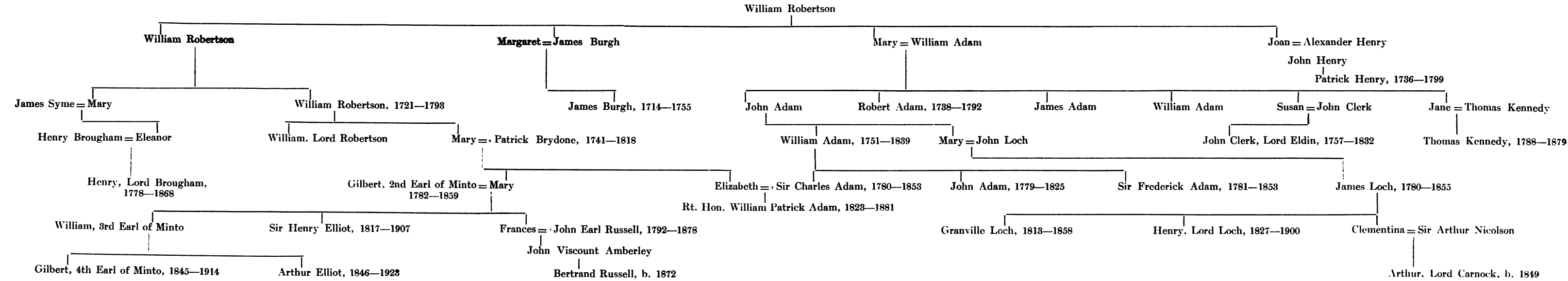


14. The Connections of Robert Louis Stevenson.

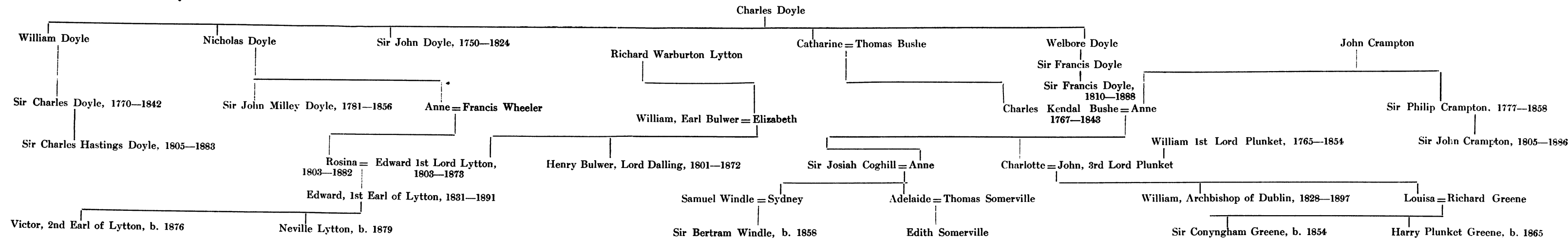




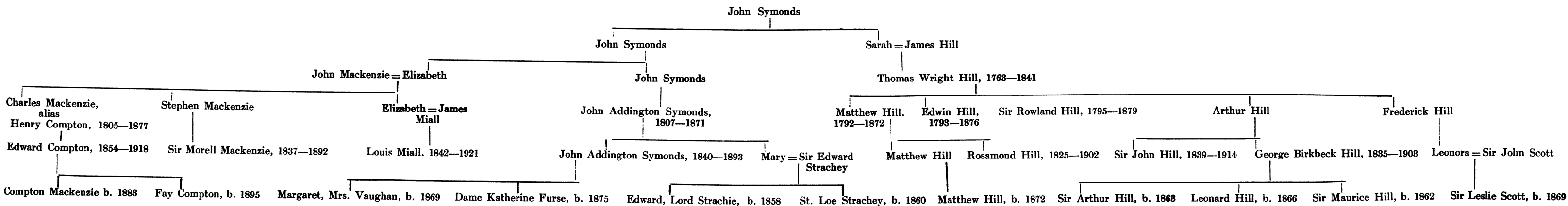
15. The Robertson Connection.



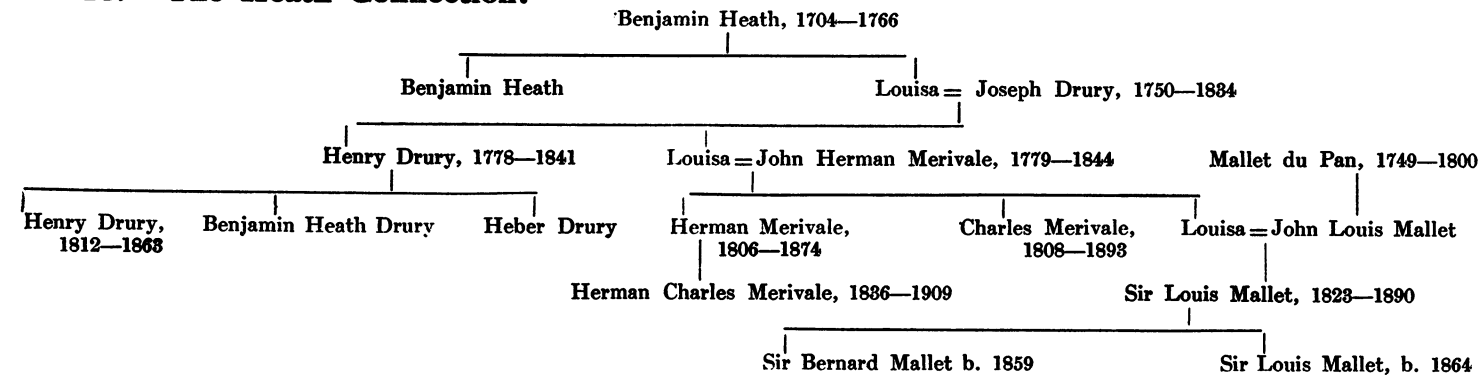
16. The Doyle Connection.



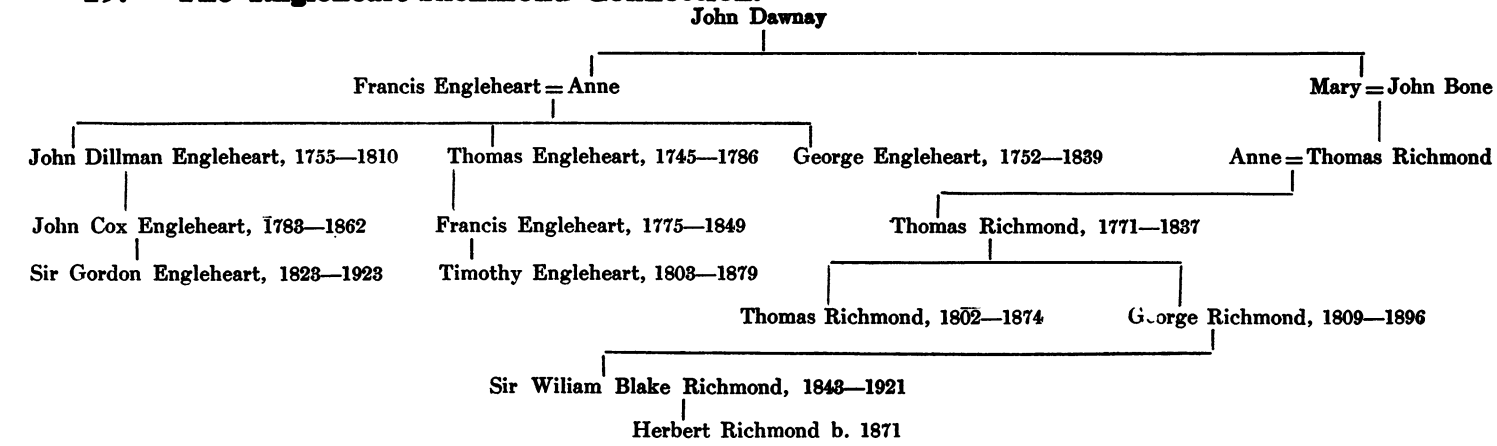
17. The Symonds Connection.



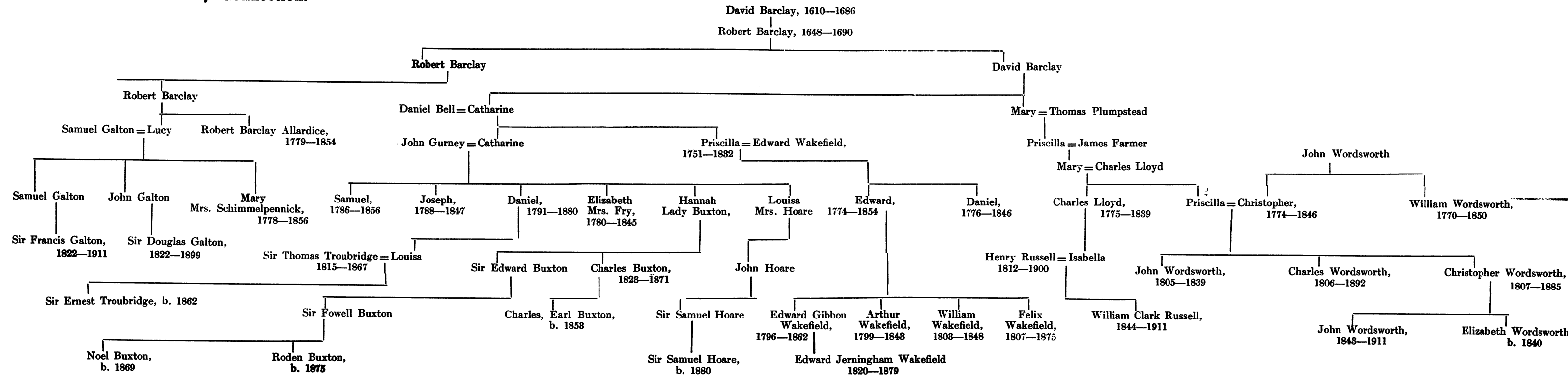
18. The Heath Connection.



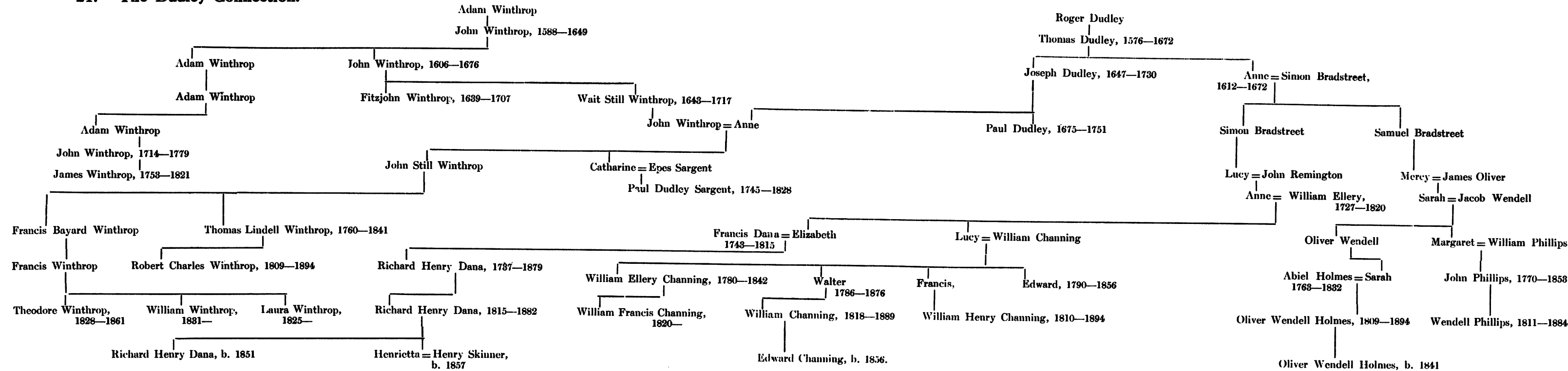
19. The Engleheart-Richmond Connection.



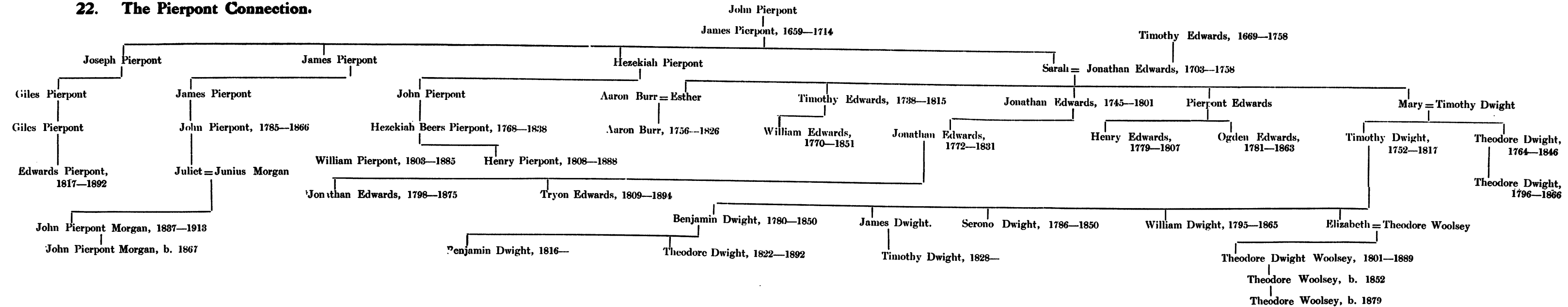
20. The Barclay Connection.



21. The Dudley Connection.



22. The Pierpont Connection.



achieved by the known descendants of the latter. As far as dates are concerned Roger Dudley might have been an illegitimate son of the Duke, he was certainly not a legitimate son, but there is nothing definite in support of this surmise.

Whatever may have been their origin, the descendants of Thomas Dudley proved an exceptionally able stock. Thomas' son Joseph, like his father, Governor of Massachusetts, has been described as a "philosopher, scholar, lawyer and divine all combined." In the male line of the Dudley family distinction tended to die out, but from the marriage of Joseph's daughter to Wait Winthrop, grandson of the great John Winthrop, the real founder of New England, originated a distinguished line of the name of Winthrop, the greatest of whom was Robert Charles, who won a considerable reputation in his day as an orator. There were other notable Winthrop descendants of the first John who did not share the Dudley blood, particularly the John who died in 1779, the foremost teacher of science in the American Colonies, to whose influence was due the interest taken by Benjamin Franklin in scientific pursuits.

It is however to the descendants of Anne Bradstreet, the daughter of Thomas Dudley, that the greater part of the distinction of this connection is due. Anne was herself a poetess of some pretensions, but for several generations at any rate, it hardly seemed as if her descendants would rise above mediocrity. Beginning, however, with the latter part of the 18th century and culminating in the 19th, a remarkable number of men of eminence arose in this branch, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Wendell Phillips, and various members of the Channing and Dana families. Oliver Wendell Holmes was evidently himself a strong believer in heredity. To a lady who asked him about the education of her child he is reputed to have said, "Madam, a child's education should have begun at least a hundred years before he is born."

Robert Charles Winthrop has been mentioned as an orator; oratorical powers were also strongly developed among the descendants of Anne Bradstreet, particularly in the case of William Ellery Channing and of Wendell Phillips. Holmes and the Dana family were more distinguished as writers, and taking the Dudley connection all through, ability with tongue or with pen seems to have predominated. Two of the Channings however distinguished themselves as doctors. Art does not seem to appear in this connection; Catherine, daughter of Wait Winthrop and Anne Dudley married Epes Sargent, as his second wife, but the many Sargents of distinction since, including the great painter, are for the most part descended from Epes Sargent by his first wife.

John Singer Sargent had however, through his mother, a descent from the Pierponts, another notable American connection, Chart 22. The painter derived from Robert Pierpont, brother of the John who heads this chart. Like the Dudleys, the Pierponts claimed relationship with a great English family, in this case the Earls of Kingston, to which Lady Mary Wortley Montagu belonged, and from which Francis Beaumont, the dramatist, and Lord Chesterfield, the letter writer, derived through female lines. This relationship is also in the writer's opinion at present non-proven, though it is by no means improbable.

From James Pierpont, son of John, the first settler in America, three families in particular may be remarked, the Pierponts themselves, the Edwards and the Dwights. The most notable of the Pierponts were Edwards, minister to Great Britain, and John, divine and poet, grandfather of the well known millionaire, John Pierpont Morgan. Of the Edwards family, the second Jonathan, who inherited the Pierpont blood, had a career remarkably similar to that of his better known father. Both were dismissed from the ministry on account of their doctrinal opinions, both later became presidents of colleges and both died shortly after, each having preached on the first Sabbath of the year from the text "This year shalt thou die."

Among several others of note in the Edwards family, mention may be made of William, who introduced a new system of tanning leather.

Of the Dwights, the greatest was probably the Timothy who died 1817, a very distinguished President of Yale, of which University his ancestor James Pierpont had been one of the founders. The Dwights however, like the Edwards, have shewn very varied ability, as writers, clergymen, merchants, physicians, lawyers. Theodore Dwight Woolsey was like his grandfather, President of Yale, his grandson Mr. Theodore Woolsey has achieved distinction in forestry. He is 7th in descent from James Pierpont, and every intervening generation has produced at least one man of note, and in two cases several.

The Pierpont connection has certain obvious resemblances to the Dudley, but has produced fewer men of international reputation. The Dudley ability has been on the whole more scholarly, while the Pierpont has turned more to administration and commerce. Actually the best known figure in the latter is probably Aaron Burr, Vice-President of the United States, who unlike most of his relatives, was a man of loose morals, and ruined his career by killing the famous Alexander Hamilton in a duel.

A comparison of the last four connections that have been considered, the Barclay, Philip Henry, Dudley and Pierpont, brings out certain features which they have in common. Each derived from a man of some note in the 17th century; the greatest distinction was not reached till the 19th, roughly from the 5th to the 7th generation from the founders. The culminating effects are quite clearly due to the influence of continued intermarriage with other good stocks. The apparent slowness of development may, however, in the case of the two English connections at all events, have been due partly to their Nonconformity, which in the 18th century would have militated greatly against their advancement.

It might perhaps be argued that among the large number of descendants of an individual in the 17th century, some must, on the doctrine of chances, achieve distinction. Having regard however to the small number who appear in a biographical dictionary in comparison with the total population, the number so occurring in the last three charts is out of all proportion to anything that could have arisen through mere chance. At least 28 descendants of Robert Barclay appear in the Dictionary of National Biography. If it were possible to trace all the descendants of an individual of the 17th century, picked out at random, it is improbable that more than two or three, and very likely none at all, would be found in those pages.